Rural electrification programme

3101. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to states:

(a) whether Government wants to share responsibility for rural electrification programme;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003;

(e) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendments in the Electricity Act; and

(d) by when these amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003 are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir, Central Government has launched the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in April, 2005 towards realizing the goal of providing access to electricity to all households in five years, which, *inter-alia,* provides for 90% capital subsidy from the Central Government for projects sanctioned under the scheme.

(b) to (d) There is a proposal to amend the Electricity Act, 2003 which, *inter-alia,* includes amendment to section 6 of the Act, in regard to joint endeavour by the concerned State Governments and the Central Government to provide access to electricity to all areas including villages and hamlets.

Issuing of tourist visa by private agencies

3102. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ease visa regulations for tourists from abroad, by outsourcing the visa issuing process to private agencies;